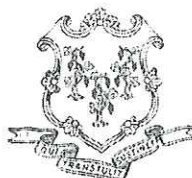


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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOE ARESIMOWICZ
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. I am Representative Joe Aresimowicz of the 30th District, serving Berlin and Southington. I am here to testify in support of HB 5545: AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE STATE BUILDING CODE TO FAIRS AND FESTIVALS.

My understanding is that the current statutes create a problem for many of the fairs and festivals that our communities host and enjoy. I am here today with representatives from Southington. Every year our town holds an Apple Harvest Festival. If you have never been, this is a great event that is in its 48th year and attracts over 75,000 people. The organizers of the event are concerned about the impact the State Building Code will have on their ability to hold the event this year.

I recognize the potential issues that our State Building Code seeks to prevent. However, since these events rely on portable structures, like tents that are temporarily at that location, and since the municipality in which the town is holding the event is required under the bill to authorize the event I believe we can make sure to both protect public safety and preserve events like the Apple Harvest Festival.